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(F165)

TELEGRAM

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

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OF RELATIONS--WITH CHINESE UNDER "THREAT" OF EXPANDING CONFLICT IN INDOCHINA, BUT HOLDS OPEN BAIT OF RENEWED CONTACTS WHEN CURRENT SITUATION RELIEVED.

2. IF MEETINGS STILL BEING HELD IN POLISH PALACE, CHINESE MIGHT HAVE MET WITH US AND ISSUED POLEMICAL BLAST. NO PURPOSE IN SUCH ACTION IN PRIVATE MEETING IF PEKING WISHES KEEP OPEN CHANNEL FOR DIALOGUE WITH US. ON OTHER HAND, IF PEKING ANTICIPATED SERIOUS WORSENING OF SITUATION, THEY MIGHT HAVE FELT IT NECESSARY MEET IN ORDER CONVEY SOME DIRECT SENSE OF WARNING OR CONCERN IN PRIVATE. ACTUAL CHINESE MOVE, THEREFORE, PROBABLY SHOULD BE SEEN AS TACTICAL PSYWAR MOVE RATHER THAN ABRUPT CHANGE IN CHICOM POLICY ON DIALOGUE WITH US.

3. BELIEVE US PUBLIC REACTION SHOULD BE TO REJECT CHINESE ALLEGATION, INDICATE BELIEF THAT TIMING OF CANCELLATION TWO DAYS BEFORE MEETING AND AFTER US TROOPS ALREADY BEGINNING PULL BACK FROM CAMBODIA MAKES CLEAR THAT CHINESE MOVE DESIGNED SIMPLY FOR PROPAGANDA EFFECT. HOPE WE WILL INDICATE WE REGRET CHINESE ACTION WHICH OBVIOUSLY CANNOT CONTRIBUTE IN ANY WAY TO RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN AREA.

4. ON QUESTION OF NEXT MEETING DATE, BELIEVE EMBASSY LIAISON OFFICER SHOULD INFORM CHINESE HERE THAT SINCE THEY HAVE CANCELLED THIS MEETING, WE WILL WAIT FOR THEM TO PROPOSE ANOTHER DATE. WE WOULD INDICATE THAT IF CHINESE WISH TO MAKE SUCH PROPOSAL ON JUNE 20, WE WILL BE GLAD TO RECEIVE THEIR SUGGESTION AND GIVE IT OUR CONSIDERATION. IF ASKED BY PRESS ABOUT DATE FOR NEXT MEETING, BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR UP TO CHINESE TO MAKE PROPOSAL BUT WE, OF COURSE, PREPARED TO CONTINUE MEETINGS.

5. KREISBERG AND ANDERSON PLAN LEAVE AFTERNOON MAY 20 AND ARRIVE WASHINGTON AFTERNOON MAY 21 UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE. THEY DO NOT PLAN CONTACT CHINESE EMBASSY.

GP-2.
STOESSEL UNQTE
ROGERS

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